




Mississippi Science Spots

November 2008

 *This symbol indicates items that are new in this issue of MS Science Spots.*

“Ready, Set, Green” MEEA Conference

Ready, Set, Green, the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance (MEEA) 2008 Conference, is being held at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center near Jackson, MS, on **November 14-15, 2008**. For more information, visit www.EeinMississippi.org

MAMLE Conference

The Mississippi Association of Middle Level Educators (MAMLE) Conference, “Rolling on the River,” will be held at the Vicksburg Convention Center on January 29-31, 2009. The keynote address will be given by the world-renown speaker and educator, Harry Wong. The Call for Presentations deadline is **November 1, 2008**. The Early Bird Registration deadline is **December 19, 2008**. Learn more at <http://www.mamle.org/conference.html>.

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships

Applications are now available for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, D.C., serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. For more information about the Einstein Fellows program, visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm or contact Liz Burck at burckl@triangle-coalition.org. The application deadline is **January 13, 2009**.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab Workshop

“Ocean Observing Systems and Apex Predators” is being hosted at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab on November 14-16, 2008. The purposes of the workshop are to enable formal and informal educators with the latest research on ocean observing systems and apex predators, provide opportunities to network with colleagues and scientists, and provide a forum for discussing ways to bridge the gap between scientists, policy makers and

educational communities. A registration fee of \$10 covers all materials, lodging at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab dorms, and most meals. For more information, contact Denise Keaton at 251-861-7515 or dkeaton@disl.org.

Global Field Master's Program

Participants in the Global Field Master's Program (GFP) travel worldwide for first-hand experience with inquiry-driven education, environmental stewardship, and global understanding. This unique program combines summer field courses with web learning communities and can be completed part-time while working. For information, visit <http://www.ProjectDragonfly.org/GFP> or contact parejaji@muohio.edu.

2009 National Science Teachers Association Conference in New Orleans March 19–22, 2009

Celebrate science in magical New Orleans, one of our most beloved cities. Attendee registration is now open. Register online or download and submit an Advanced Registration Form in Adobe Acrobat format. Find more information at <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009new>.

NSTA Conference Funding Awards

A number of awards to fund all or partial conference expenses are available on the NSTA website at http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx#di_steaching.

Earthwatch Institute Fellowships

The Earthwatch Institute is now accepting applications for educator fellowships for 2008-2009. Fellows learn about cutting edge research and conservation efforts, develop professional skills, and make a difference for our environment. More information, deadlines, and applications are available at <http://www.earthwatch.org/education>.

Community Action Grants

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is offering community action grants to provide funds to individuals as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Information about the one-year and two-year grants are available at http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellows_hips_grants/community_action.cfm. The application deadline is **January 15, 2009**.

Grant Applications and Lessons Plans

Earth Day Network has announced new grants for 2008-2009: (1) The National Civic Education Project is designed to promote a more democratically active citizenry of environmental education in today's society. (2) The Campus Climate Challenge provides stipends and year-long support to climate change educators. Information about the grants is available at <http://ww2.earthday.net/node/13458>. Additionally, Earth Day Network's civic and environmental education lesson plans and resources may be accessed at www.earthday.net/~earthday/lessonplans.

New Scholarship Opportunity

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2009 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000, or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy, or Outside the Box. Download an application at www.DavidsonFellows.org. The deadline to apply is **March 4, 2009**.

Professional Development Opportunities

The U.S. Satellite Laboratory announces several professional development opportunities for schools in each state. Find information at www.us-satellite.net about the no-fee, proven, and exciting, thematic science curriculum with teacher training and ongoing support.

Zula International–NSTA Early Science Educator Award

The Zula International–NSTA Early Science Educator Awards will recognize and honor two (2) full-time PreK–2 teachers who successfully use innovative inquiry-based science to enhance science teaching and learning in their classroom. Download an application at <http://www.nsta.org/pdfs/awards/Zula.pdf>.

“eCYBERMISSION” Competition

Registration for the U.S. Army's seventh annual eCYBERMISSION competition for students in grades 6-9 is now open. The eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based science, math, and technology competition that allows students to compete for

regional and national awards while working together to solve problems in their community. The competition also promotes self-discovery for all students by helping them recognize the real-life applications of math, science and technology. Learn more at www.ecybermission.com.

CoCoRaHS Needs Volunteers!

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is soliciting volunteers to collect daily measurements of rain, hail, and snow. Learn more at <http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=aboutus>.

Youth and Adult Outdoor Photography Contest 2009

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation is hosting the Youth and Adult Outdoor Photography Contest 2009. Youth, ages 10-18, are invited to submit photographs no later than **June 1, 2009**. Go to http://www.mswildlife.org/events/youth_adult_contest.html for more information.

2009 Thacher Scholars Award

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) announces the 2009 Thacher Scholars Award. This national competition is for high school students to demonstrate the best use of geospatial technologies or data to study Earth. Learn more at <http://www.strategies.org/docs/ThacherAnnouncement2009.pdf>.

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge



Election 2008: Science Issues

The nonpartisan Scientists and Engineers for America (SEA) has created the Science, Health and Related Policies (SHARP) Network, an interactive website that tracks where candidates stand on science issues. The candidates' answers to questions about many of the most important unresolved challenges currently facing the United States can be found at <http://www.sciencedebate2008.com/www/index.php?id=42>.

Ecological Footprint Calculator

Earth Day Network has just released its newest tool, the Ecological Footprint Calculator, as an interesting, engaging and highly educational way to teach sustainability and inspire change. Visit <http://www.earthday.net/ecofootprint> to learn more.

Local Astronomy Resources

Rainwater Observatory and Planetarium, French Camp, MS, has posted a list of local facilities that will host school groups. Find more information at <http://www.rainwaterobservatory.org>. Also visit www.rainwater.astronomers.org for information about periodicals of interest, slide and video sources, books, etc.

Subscribe to MS Science Spots

Administrators and educators who wish to subscribe to this newsletter may add their names to the mailing list by sending a blank email to mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us with the subject line, "Listserve."

The Futures Channel

One of the main goals of *The Futures Channel* is to produce mini-documentaries and multi-media content that educators can use to enliven their curriculums and connect mathematics, science, technology, and engineering to the real world so that students have context and purpose for what they are learning. More information may be found at www.thefutureschannel.com.

Journey to Planet Earth

With companion educational resources, Journey to Planet Earth can transport young people on a trip around the globe to explore the environment from a global perspective and to find solutions for their own communities. Explore resources for educators at all levels at <http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/education/index.html>.

Free Technology-based Resources

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) has announced the availability of a wealth of free content for K-12 educators on Apple's iTunes U. This initiative creates a destination where professional development, curricula resources, examples of best practices, and student samples are easily accessible. iTunes, a free software download for Mac or PC, is required. For more information, visit www.apple.com/itunesu.

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge encourages student teams from grades 6-8, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, to identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education. To access additional information, visit <http://www.wecanchange.com/media-room>.

2009 Hurricane Bowl

Registration is now open for 2009 Hurricane Bowl, hosted by the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center. The competition is intended to increase knowledge of the oceans as well as raise the visibility and public understanding of the national investment in ocean-related research. Find more information at http://www.nosb.org/?anchor=about_nosb. Email registration forms to Samuel.clardy@usm.edu, by **December 12, 2008**.

Free Astronomy Software Program

Celestia, a free software program, allows astronomy students to traverse time and space, through Celestia's three-dimensional virtual universe and transforms a classroom into a high tech space-simulation experience. Learn more at <http://www.shatters.net/celestia/>.

Free DVD's and Teacher Guides

Science Screen Reports offers DVD videos free of charge to schools through corporate sponsorship. Topics related to science, engineering, medicine, technology, conservation and the environment are designed to inform, motivate and pique the curiosity of elementary and secondary students. Visit <http://www.ssrvideo.com/about.html> for more information.

Free Classroom Activities

The 2007 Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC) is a national center that promotes and supports environmental technology education to address the needs of the national and global workforce. Over 25 activities were developed for use in the classroom, which are available at <http://www.ateec.org>.

Science Fair Central

Discovery Education (www.discoveryeducation.com) has launched a new website to provide K-8 teachers with a comprehensive approach to science education. In addition to a wealth of general resources, the site includes a link to science fair ideas and resources. Learn more at <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/?PID=fair>.

Free Educational Resources

More than thirty federal agencies formed a working group in 1997 to make hundreds of federally supported teaching and learning resources easier to find. The result of that work is the Federal

Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) at <http://www.free.ed.gov>.

Nautical Charts

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently released a new multimedia elementary educational program, "NauticalCharts," at http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/nautical_charts. Designed for students in grades 3-5, the media-rich activity teaches young people about charting and navigation, with access to movies, sounds, pictures, and links to other resources.

Sylvan Dell Publishing Resource Grant

A grant is being offered to one school in every Mississippi school district for a free, one-year site license, providing unlimited access to all 35 Sylvan Dell eBooks. The Science and Math Through Literature series feature flip-viewer technology with selectable English and Spanish text and audio. Find more information at www.SylvanDellPublishing.com/resourceGrant.htm.

Geoscience Resources

The nation's most extensive collection of digital learning resources for geoscience education is now based at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO. The Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE), <http://www.dlese.org/> developed with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), focuses on the special needs of K-12 educators and has tips for finding resources for K-12 classrooms.

Free Online Slide Sets

BioEd Online Slide Sets are peer-reviewed and annotated PowerPoint slide sets on topics of interest to middle school and high school teachers. Slides can be viewed in sets or accessed individually with a keyword search (e.g., cloning, diversity of life, infectious diseases, biological classification, nucleic acids, human body systems, ecosystems, scientific inquiry, lab techniques, tsunamis, chemical mixtures, etc.). Find information at <http://www.bioedonline.org/slides/>.

Free Native Plant Habitat Resources

Creating a native plant habitat garden or restoration project provides countless opportunities for learning. This guide from the Washington Native Plant Society provides student checklists, forms, activities, a school-year flow chart outlining integration of curricular materials, and how-to guides for planning. Go to <http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/middleschool.html> for more information.

Mississippi Department of Education

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

601-359-2586

Science Specialist: Mary Wroten

mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us